



Bent County Board of County Commissioners

August 19, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I write to you today in support of the AT&T and T-Mobile merger. As a Bent County Commissioner, I feel it is important to support efforts like this merger that will positively impact our county and surrounding areas by bringing mobile broadband solutions to a significant portion of our rural population. The merger is in alignment with the Commission's goals to modernize county facilities and infrastructures as well as increasing economic sustainability of our current and potential local businesses.

With these goals in mind, this proposed merger will bring high-speed wireless Internet to Southeastern Colorado more widely and would benefit rural life in many ways, both from an economic and social aspect. With more wireless broadband services available to choose from, our local businesses in Bent County, farming, ranching, and other businesses will be able to be more efficient in bringing products to the market.

One of our most important assets is a well-educated and trained workforce, thus institutions, businesses and families will have the opportunity to access educational tools that provide additional learning opportunities.

It is with these points in mind that I strongly encourage your support of the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. Our communities and businesses rely on the same infrastructure as the rest of the world and our citizens will benefit from access to the same advanced technologies in a similar timeframe to when it is available and promised to larger cities.

We embrace the economic investment promise made by AT&T to deliver its mobile broadband networks across our state. Bent County and surrounding rural areas will get to experience the same benefits of greater access and faster connectivity to 4G LTE networks that customers in metropolitan areas can expect to receive.

We respectfully ask for your consideration in approving this merger as a way to benefit all of our residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

Bill Long, Chairman Bent County Commissioners